In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method of configuring an appliance comprising:

~~sending~~ transmitting an electronic data file ~~containing~~ including configuration information to the appliance, the electronic data file causing the appliance to be automatically configured based on the configuration information ~~automatically configuring the appliance in response to receiving the electronic data file; and~~.

2.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration information is in a markup language.

3.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 2, wherein the configuration information is in XML.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic data file is embedded in an email, and further comprising:

encrypting the electronic data file prior to sending it to the appliance.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 4 further comprising:

decrypting the email after being received by the appliance.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 5 further comprising:

authenticating the email after being received by the appliance.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 6 further comprising:

checking that the email has a proper authorization before configuring the appliance.

8.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim I further comprising:

allowing access through a firewall to a particular IP address in response to receiving

the electronic data file.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 8 further comprising:

allowing the particular IP address to modify the appliance through an interactive

session.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

authenticating the electronic data file by the appliance.

11.   (Withdrawn)   A method of configuring an appliance comprising:

receiving an email containing configuration information; and

configuring the appliance based on the configuration information.

12   (Original)   The method of claim 11 further comprising:

decrypting the email.

13   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 11 further comprising:

authenticating the configuration information.

14.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 13 further comprising:

allowing access through a firewall to a particular IP address responsive to receiving

the email.

15.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 14 further comprising:

allowing access by the particular IF address to the appliance via an interactive menu.

16   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 15, wherein the interactive menu is part of a

browser.

17.   (Original)   The method of claim 11 further comprising:

sending a confirmation email indicating that the appliance was reconfigured

successfully.

18.   (Original)   A method of configuring multiple appliances comprising:

sending an email containing configuration information for multiple appliances; and

the multiple appliances configuring themselves based on the configuration information.

19.   (Original)   The method of claim 18 further comprising:

encrypting the configuration information in the email.

20.   (Original)   The method of claim 19 further comprising:

the multiple appliances authenticating the email before configuring themselves based

on the configuration information.

21.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 18 further comprising:

the multiple appliances authenticating the email before configuring themselves based

on the configuration information.

22.   (Withdrawn)   A method of communicating with a network comprising:

receiving an email containing a user identifier; and

allowing access through a firewall of the network to an IP address corresponding to

the user identifier in response to receiving the email.

23.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 22 further comprising:

authenticating the email.

24.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 22 further comprising:

decrypting the email.

25.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 22, wherein access through the firewall is

allowed for a predetermined time interval.

26.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 22 further comprising:

sending a confirmation email indicating that access was allowed through the firewall.

27.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 22, wherein the user identifier is the IF address.

28.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 27, wherein access through the firewall is

allowed for a predetermined time interval.

29   (Original)   An article comprising:

        a storage medium which stores instructions, the instructions when executed, causing

systems to:

        receive an electronic data file containing configuration information; and

        configure an appliance based on the configuration information.

30.   (Original)   The article of claim 29, wherein the storage medium further comprises

instructions, the instructions, when executed, cause systems to:

        decrypt the electronic data file.

31.   (Withdrawn)   The article of claim 29, wherein the storage medium further comprises

instructions, the instructions, when executed, cause systems to:

        authenticate the configuration information.